

Application No. 09/896,066
Amendment "C" dated March 9, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed December 29, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system that is comprised of an access device, a programmable client system and a provider, all of which are logically interconnectable through a network such as the Internet, wherein the client system stores program guide data that is used by a user to schedule events, a method for remotely scheduling events at the client system with an access device, comprising steps for:

accessing the client system through the network with the remotely located access device, wherein the client system has a bi-directional connection with the network;

authenticating a user of the remotely located access device to the client system, wherein authenticating a user of the remotely located access device to the client system comprises providing authentication information issued to a user from an authentication service to the client system to allow the client system to verify the user with the authentication service;

once the user of the remotely located access device is authenticated to the client system, retrieving current program guide data from the client system with the remotely located access device, wherein the current program guide data is displayed on the remotely located access device;

selecting an event using the retrieved program guide data displayed at the remotely located access device;

sending the selected event to the client system; and

scheduling the selected event at the client system.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for authenticating a user of the remotely located access device further comprises a step for authenticating the user at the client system with an authentication service.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for retrieving the current program guide data from the client system further comprises steps for:

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displaying a schedule of programming content that is scheduled to be sent to the client system on the access device; and

displaying previously scheduled events on the access device.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises a step for selecting one or more programs identified in the current program guide data to be associated with an event.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises a step for unselecting one or more of the programs previously selected and associated with an event, wherein the associated event is removed from the selected programs.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises one or more of:
a step for setting preferences in the current program guide data;
a step for selecting a record event;
a step for selecting a delete event; and
a step for selecting a lock or unlock event.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for accessing the client system further comprises a step for connecting the access device to a device service.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 8, further comprising:
a step for authenticating the access device at the device service with an authentication service;
a step for recognizing the specific access device; and
a step for formatting, by the device service, the retrieved current program guide data for the specific access device.

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10. (Currently Amended) In a system that is comprised of an access device, a programmable client system and a provider, all of which are logically interconnectable through a network such as the Internet, wherein the client system stores program guide data that is updated periodically from the provider and the program guide data stored on the client system is used by a user to schedule events, a computer program product for implementing a method for remotely scheduling events at the client system with an access device, comprising:

a computer readable medium for carrying computer executable instructions for implementing said method, and wherein the method comprises steps for:

accessing the client system through the network with the remotely located access device, wherein the client system has a bi-directional connection with the network;

authenticating a user of the remotely located access device to the client system, wherein authenticating a user of the remotely located access device to the client system comprises providing authentication information issued to a user from an authentication service to the client system to allow the client system to verify the user with the authentication service;

once the user of the remotely located access device is authenticated to the client system, retrieving current program guide data from the client system with the remotely located access device, wherein the retrieved program guide data is displayed on the remotely located access device;

selecting an event using the current program guide data displayed at the remotely located access device;

sending the selected event to the client system; and

scheduling the selected event at the client system.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step for authenticating a user of the remotely located access device further comprises a step for authenticating the user at the client system with an authentication service.

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13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step for retrieving the current program guide data from the client system further comprises steps for:
displaying a schedule of programming content that is scheduled to be sent to the client system on the access device; and
displaying previously scheduled events on the access device.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises a step for selecting one or more programs identified in the current program guide data to be associated with an event.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises a step for unselecting one or more of the programs previously selected and associated with an event, wherein the associated event is removed from the selected programs.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step for selecting an event at the remotely located access device further comprises one or more of:
a step for setting preferences in the current program guide data;
a step for selecting a record event;
a step for selecting a delete event; and
a step for selecting a lock or unlock event.

17. (Original) A method as defined in claim 10, wherein the step for accessing the client system further comprises a step for connecting the access device to a device service.

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18. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 17, further comprising:
a step for authenticating the access device at the device service with an authentication
service;
a step for recognizing the specific access device; and
a step for formatting, by the device service, the retrieved current program guide data for
the specific access device.

19 - 27 (Cancelled)

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28. (Currently Amended) In a system that is comprised of an access device, a device service, an authentication service, a set top box and a provider that is accessible by the client system, all of which are logically interconnectable through a network such as the Internet, a method of remotely scheduling events at the client system with an access device, comprising acts of:

- connecting the set top box to the network with a connection that is always on line with the network;

- at a location that is remote from the set top box, logically connecting the access device to the device service;

- authenticating a user at the access device at the device service with the authentication service, wherein the authentication service can then automatically authenticate the user at the access device to the set top box by providing authentication information issued to the user by the authentication service to the set top box;

- automatically recognizing the specific access device at the device service;

- logically connecting the access device via the device service and the network to the set top box;

- once connected, retrieving current program guide data from the set top box with the remotely located access device via the device service, wherein the current program guide data is appropriately formatted by the device service for the specific access device and the current program guide data displayed on the remotely located access device;

- selecting an event from the program guide data displayed at the remotely located access device; and

- sending the selected event from the remotely located access device to be executed at the set top box; wherein a scheduler implements the event at the set top box.

29. (Original) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein the act of retrieving current program guide data retrieved from the set top box further comprises acts of:

- displaying programming content that is scheduled to be sent to the client system from;

- and

- displaying scheduled events.

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30. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein the access device is one of a cell phone, laptop computer, desktop computer, handheld computer, or internet appliance.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 30, wherein the act of retrieving the current program guide data further comprises an act of automatically formatting the current program guide data retrieved from the set top box at the device service to a format appropriate for display by the cell phone, laptop computer, desktop computer, handheld computer, or internet appliance.

32. (Original) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein the step for connecting the access device to the set top box further comprises an act of the authentication service authenticating the user to the set top box.

33. (Original) A method as defined in claim 32, further comprising an act of the device service authenticating the user with authentication service.

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34. (Currently Amended) In a system that is comprised of an access device, a device service, an authentication service, a programmable client system and a provider that is accessible by the client system, all of which are logically interconnectable through a network such as the Internet, a computer program product for implementing a method of remotely scheduling events at the client system with an access device, the computer program product comprising:
a computer readable medium for carrying computer executable instructions for implementing said method, and wherein the implemented method comprises acts of:

connecting the set top box to the network with a connection that is always on line with the network;

at a location that is remote from the set top box, logically connecting the access device to the device service;

authenticating a user at the access device at the device service with the authentication service, wherein the authentication service can then automatically authenticate the user at the access device to the set top box by providing authentication information issued to the user by the authentication service to the set top box;

automatically recognizing the specific access device at the device service;

logically connecting the access device via the device service and the network to the set top box;

once connected, retrieving current program guide data from the set top box with the remotely located access device via the device service, wherein the current program guide data is appropriately formatted by the device service for the specific access device and the current program guide data displayed on the remotely located access device;

selecting an event from the program guide data displayed at the remotely located access device; and

sending the selected event from the remotely located access device to be executed at the set top box; wherein a scheduler implements the event at the set top box.

35. (Original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein the act of retrieving current program guide data retrieved from the set top box further comprises acts of:

displaying programming content that is scheduled to be sent to the client system from;

and

displaying scheduled events.

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36. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein the access device is one of a cell phone, laptop computer, desktop computer, handheld computer, or internet appliance.

37. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 36, wherein the act of retrieving the current program guide data further comprises an act of automatically formatting the current program guide data retrieved from the set top box at the device service to a format appropriate for display by the cell phone, laptop computer, desktop computer, handheld computer, or internet appliance.

38. (Original) A method as defined in claim 34, wherein the step for connecting the access device to the set top box further comprises an act of the authentication service authenticating the user to the set top box.

39. (Original) A method as defined in claim 38, further comprising an act of the device service authenticating the user with authentication service.

40 - 42 (Cancelled)

43. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the current program guide data retrieved from the client system further comprises a programming content scheduled to be sent to the set top box from the satellite, wherein the current program guide data includes previously scheduled events.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event further comprises an act of selecting one or more programs, wherein the programming content of the selected one or more programs will be recorded.

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45. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event further comprises an act of unselecting one or more programs previously selected to be recorded, wherein the unselected one or more programs will not be recorded.

46. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event further comprises an act of changing the configuration of the current program guide data.

47. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event further comprises an act of locking or unlocking one or more channels of programming content available to the set top box from the satellite.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step for selecting an event further comprises an act of deleting previously recorded programming content.

49 (New) A method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step for formatting, by the device service, the retrieved current program guide data for the specific access device comprises formatting the retrieved current program guide for display on a cell phone by formatting the retrieved current program guide as a menu driven configuration suitable for a cell phone.

50 (New) A method as defined in claim 18, wherein the step for formatting, by the device service, the retrieved current program guide data for the specific access device comprises formatting the retrieved current program guide for display on a cell phone by formatting the retrieved current program guide as a menu driven configuration suitable for a cell phone.

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